

1900-1950

Golden Jubilee

of

BÉKEVÁR



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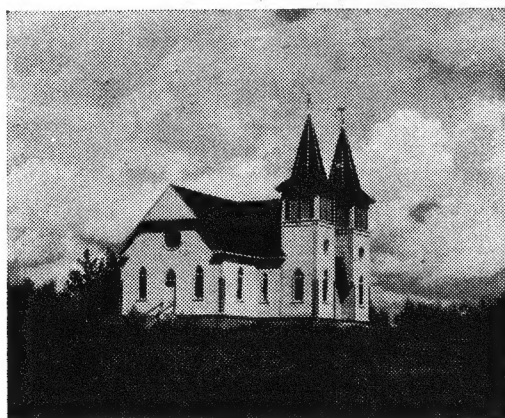
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Golden Jubilee
of
BÉKEVÁR



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P R E F A C E

One of the most difficult things which anyone is called upon to do is the task of writing the history of a living breathing community. No history is ever free from inaccuracy nor is any history ever complete. The writers are fully aware of the deficiencies of such a brief outline. Nevertheless they took courage to preserve in some degree the story of the community.

Primarily the aim of the writers is to preserve the memory of the pioneers of this community, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in July 1950.

While it is said that the anniversary is a community occasion it is also the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Békevár Presbyterian Church, this makes the task doubly difficult and we seek the sympathy and understanding of all who should find the life of a community worth reading about.

* * *

To the memory of the early pioneers, many of whom are resting in the three cemeteries at Békevár, and to those of their descendants who continue in the pioneering spirit of honesty, industry and in faith in Almighty God, this Anniversary Booklet is dedicated.

* * *

To the advertisers, without, whose generous donations this booklet could not have been published, we extend our sincere thanks and good wishes.

K. C. Doka.

Fifty Years in South East Saskatchewan

BÉKEVÁR . . . PEACE FORT

The history of a country is older than its oldest inhabitants. The story of a community begins in some other community or country. The history of BÉKEVÁR does not in reality begin with the first pioneer setting foot on the rich soil of the prairies but in the minds and hearts of men who lived in a distant land. They lived in a country called Hungary in central Europe. As men of courage and lovers of the soil and of liberty, they heard of, and set out to avail themselves of these great essentials.

The founders of this large community arrived in Whitewood, North-West Territories now Saskatchewan in 1898. Whitewood at this time was a train stop on the main line of the C.P.R. There were a few Hungarian families here prior to 1898. It was through correspondence with them that the immigrants from the country of Bereg of Hungary took Whitewood as their destination. The one hundred sixty acres of Homestead land was the major attraction. On arrival they found that no such land was available in the Whitewood district because earlier settlers claimed the land before them. This was indeed a disappointment. There was only one thing left to do — wait and obtain information.

It was in this way that the immigrants spent two years in the Whitewood district before venturing forth into the wilderness in a south westerly

direction. The Indian trails were the only roads, the sun was their only compass. They came determined to make their homes and arrived in the areas of their choice on the twentieth day of July 1900.

The trail-blazers left their families in the Whitewood district on this venture. They knew that the finding of the Homestead sections would mean days of searching and the lack of shelter. Hence the small company of three men: John Szabo, Joseph Szakacs and Aaron Szakacs found their way across the Pipestone Valley and camped by a small shrub. Using branches as building material they set up their headquarters three quarters of a mile south east of where now the Calvary Baptist Church stands. From this point they carried on their search for the survey stakes which informed them of the available sections. When the land which suited each was found they set to work and built the first log cabin, and the first four families moved into the sod covered shacks in the early autumn.

We will not try to describe the hardships of that first long winter in the wilderness. Wild game was the staple food. Flour, salt, and sugar were the necessities. Two or three trips to the village was a record. Fresh fruits and vegetables were unheard of.

With the arrival of spring in 1901 several families were added to the

community, Andrew Szakács, Shoemaker, Gáll, Izsák, Nyeste, Balogh, Santo. The following year there was a greater influx. Bernat, Fonagy, Kadash Daku, James Kovach, and Varjassy were others in the company of early settlers. These were later joined by Mile, Debreceni, Borsos, Nagy, Barta, and Bugyi. The settlers greeted the new arrivals as brothers. The community was a large family.

In 1901 the Home Missions Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada called a protestant missionary to administer to the spiritual needs of this embryonic community. He was to be one of the first Hungarian missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Although he arrived in 1901 it can be said that these settlers brought the church with them. A background of Calvinistic tradition came with them from the old land. The Bible was their library, their faith and life was built around it.

In 1900 William A. Szakács, now an active member of the settlement, was born in Whitewood. Irma Szakacs, now Mrs. Elek Beresh, was the first-born on the soil of the community. Thus almost parallel with the first generation came the second.

The need for a school became apparent in the rapidly-growing community. In the year 1905 the first school was erected which served the educational, social and spiritual needs. The settlers named this first school Kossuth in memory of the great Hungarian patriot Louis Kossuth.

Kossuth and a long line of teachers over a period of forty-five years played a very important role in the life of the community. In not a few cases three generations have left their imprint on the schools furniture. Young men and women now in various professions have heeded the teachers in old Kos-



NT. DÓKA KÁLMÁN

az újonnan vizsgát tett református lelkész, akinek ünnepélyes felszentelése a július 20-23.-án tartandó Békevári telep 50 éves évfordulóval kapcsolatban lesz megtartva. Nt. Dóka a torontói Knox College növendéke volt mint ilyen a theologiai fakultás első kanadai magyarja, aki angol és magyar nyelvi szolgálatra képesítést kapott. Nt. Dóka Abbotsford, B.C.-ben fog munkálkodni a Presbyterian Church in Canada kebelében.

suth. One of the songs which still rings a familiar note is the following:

"Give a cheer for Kossuth School:
Shout till the rafters ring,
Cheer and sing a song once again,
Let every loyal heart now sing.
Cheer for all the happy hours,
Cheer for the carefree days,
Cheer for her the school we're
PROUD OF,
Kossuth of our hearts always."

Kossuth has been recently rebuilt to carry on its important work in the lives of the generations to come.

Two other schools erected soon after 1905 bear Hungarian names and will continue to stand as monuments to the emory of the active courageous, forward looking pioneers who did not know the meaning of the word "can't". These schools are named Rákóczi and Magyar, while Little Mountain, Hebdenden, Saffordia, Bender, Kipling are some of the schools serving the educational needs of the district.

The spiritual life of the people was not neglected in the days of hardship and toil. In 1901 the Board of Missions appointed the Reverend Kalman Kovacs as the first Hungarian missionary to this district. He saw the community grow from a handfull of sod covered huts into a thriving agricultural settlement. In 1910 the Reverend John Kovách received his appointment to the congregation. In the first two years of his ministry the Bekevar Presbyterian Church was built by a congregation numbering about fifty families. During the first decade of his ministry the Church received its self sustaining status. Rev. Kovach served this Church for almost twenty years when ill health forced him to retire from the active ministry but he continued to serve his community in various capacities until his death in 1945. The Rev. Dr. Molnar, Reverends Frank Kovach, Andrew Arvay, S. Fazekas is the line of ministers which served the church in the past twenty years.

East of the Presbyterian stands the newly rebuilt Baptist Church. Its history goes back to the first decade of the twentieth century. With only a few members the first church was built in 1911. In the spring of 1912 the Rev. John Monus received his ap-

pointment its first missionary. His zeal added many members to the congregation and the church was enlarged. In 1925 Rev. Monus left and Rev. William Tatter came from the United States to carry on the work here. There were periods when the congregation was without a regular missionary but the worship services were carried on nevertheless. In 1940 the Rev G. Mento heard the call of the west and during his ministry the church was rebuilt and renamed Calvary Baptist Church. In 1948 Mr. E. Bacskey accepted a position as teacher in the village of Kipling. Since that time he has been supplying the pulpit as layman preacher. Under his able leadership several new members were added to the roll. It must be mentioned here that Mr. Mike Beke has served his church with time and talent for many years.

* * *

Although many families have moved to other parts of Canada and though the natural increase thinned by the attraction of city life, the community today has about three hundred families. Its borders have been extending in every direction. Eight hamlets and villages, and about fourteen schools serve this community which covers an area of over 100 square miles. The spoken language in the homes is still Hungarian. While there are few among the third generation that can write or read Hungarian the great grand children of the pioneers still converse freely in the language of the forefathers. They have, however, adopted the Canadian spirit with only a few of the customs remaining. One of these is the big Hungarian wedding. Another and more important one is the love of the soil of industry and simple honesty.

K. C. Doka.

CONGRATULATIONS BEKEVAR ON YOUR 50th BIRTHDAY
JOE'S SERVICE STATION KIPLING
JOE MARTON OPERATOR

Pumble's Service
Station
Windthorst Sask.
B. A. Gas and Oil

Congratulations
on your 50th Anniversary
M. C. McArton Windthorst
General Agent, Realestate
Insurance

GRATULAL SZÜLŐTELEPÉNEK ÖTVEN ÉVES JUBILEUMÁN
SZAKÁCS SÁNDOR
VEGYESKERESKEDŐ INCHKEITH

Congratulations to the
Bekevar Community on
its 50th Anniversary
E. M. Hopp Windthorst
Oliver Agent Imperial Oil

The Windthorst Hotel
Wishes to Extend its
Congratulations to the
Bekevár Community
J. E. Lenius prop.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
DAVID ISMAN
MASSEY HARRIS DEALER
KIPLING

Windhorst Cafee & Grocery
Prop. W. G. Soper
Congratulate you
on your 50th Anniversary

Windthorst CO-OP Ltd.
Windthorst
Congratulations
on your 50th Anniversary

LEGGETT BROS. AND KIPLING HARDWARE KIPLING
CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE OCASION OF
YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY

BALFOUR'S DRUG STORE
KIPLING AND WINDTHORST
CONGRATULATES YOU ON YOUR COMMUNITY'S
50th ANNIVERSARY
A. BALFOUR AND STAFF
DRUGGIST

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR COMMUNITY'S
50th BIRTHDAY
THE KIPLING BLACKSMITH SHOP
A. LANGENBERGER
CASE AND MINEAPOLIS dealer

R. M. of Hazelwood No. 94.
Congratulations on Your
Anniversary

R. M. Kingsley, No. 124
Congratulations and Best Wishes
for your 50th Anniversary

YOUR CO-OP STORE AT KIPLING CONGRATULATES YOU
ON YOUR GOLDEN JUBILEE
W. G. STEWART
manager

KIPLING BUILDING SUPPLIES, LUMBER MILWORK
CONGRATULATIONS TO BEKEVAR
ON THE 50th ANNIVERSARY
A. J. SMITH jr. prop.

JOE KERTAI
JEWELLER and BARBER SHOP
BEST WISHES ON THE 50th
ANNIVERSARY

KIPLING
H. R. LAVER
GENERAL MERCHANT
SUCCESS FOR YOUR JUBILEE

Congratulations
on your 50th Anniversary
Eat at Arts Cafe
Corning, Sask.

McArthur's Dress Shop
Congratulates Bekevar
on their 50th Anniversary
Mrs. C. McArthur prop.
Kennedy

WISHING YOU EVERY SUCCESS ...
JOSEPH SKENDEROVICH
KIPLING
WELDING AND REPAIRING

CONGRATULATIONS TO BEKEVAR
LONGREN'S CONSTRUCTION
KIPLING AND BEKEVAR DISTRICT
ROADGRADING-EXCAVATION

HILL-HURST FARMS
CONGRATULATIONS BEKEVAR
IF ITS BETTER SHORTHORNS YOU WANT, WE HAVE THEM
JOHN & ED CLARK, INCHKEITH

Kennedy Radio Electric
Public Address Service
Congratulates Bekevár
On it's 50th Anniversary
F. O. Barclay Kennedy

Kennedy CO-OP Hardware Implements
Congratulates you on your 50th
Anniversary
G. F. Chanut Manager

BARTA AND BERESH
YOUR INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER DEALERS
CONGRATULATES YOU ON YOUR
50th ANNIVERSARY
KENNEDY SASK.

Congratulations on
your Golden Jubilee
Dermody and Dermody
Lands Ins. Notary Public
Established 1904
We saw you progress

Congratulations
on your 50th Anniversary
John Ogloff agent
Sask. Pool Elevators
Inchkeith, Sask.

CONGRATULATION YOU ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY BEKEVAR
IF IT'S HARDWARE YOU WANT WE HAVE IT
KENNEDY HARDWARE
PETER BARTA Mgr.

WM. Warner
Livestock Shipper
Kennedy Sask.
Congratulates Bekevar
on your 50th Anniversary

Congratulations Bekevar
on your 50th Anniversary
Daves Cafe Confectionery
Meal Lunches Icecream
David Lee prp. Kennedy

AZ ÖTVEN ÉVES BÉKEVÁR ÜNNEPÉRE
SZÍVÉLYES ÜDVÖZLETTEL
PINTÉR TESTVÉREK KIPLING
BUTOR ASZTALOSOK ÉS HÁZÉPÍTŐ VÁLLALATA

CONGRATULATING YOU ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR STORE
WILHELM'S STORE KENNEDY

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
AND BEST WISHES FOR FUTURE GROWTH
JAMES SPROAT dealer KIPLING

Service Garage
Auto repairs — Accessories
Best Wishes on your 50th
Anniversary
A. J. Main prop.

Best Wishes on 50th
Anniversary
Welcome Inn Kipling
Mrs. McNiven prop.

BEST WISHES ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
STAFF AND MANAGEMENT
KIPLING HOTEL and RECREATION ROOM

WE SALUTE AND CONGRATULATE BEKEVAR
COMMUNITY ON THIS THEIR 50th ANNIVERSARY
SECURITY LUMBER CO.
A. W. SEWART local Mgr.

Best Wishes on Your 50th
Anniversary
Kipling Electric Service
L. D. Dash

The Kipling Dairy
Congratulates You Bekevar
Alex Beke mgr.

CONGRATULATIONS AND SINCER WISHES FOR CONTINUED
PROGRESS OF YOUR COMMUNITY WHICH HAS FITTED SO WELL
INTO THE SCHEME OF DEVELOPMENT WESTERN CANADA
A. J. BOYER KIPLING
REAL ESTATE, NOTARY PUBLIC, INSURANCE

CASSWELL'S CAFE FOR GOOD MEALS
CONGRATULATES YOU ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
H. CASSEWELL AND STAFF KIPLING

B. A. GARAGE SENDS YOU CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
E. ROBINSON
YOUR COCKSHUTT AGENT KIPLING

RESPECTS AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO BEKEVAR ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
WE RESPECT YOUR PIONEERING SPIRIT AND YOUR PROGRESS
AS WE RESPECT YOUR PATRONAGE
DODD'S CASH STORE KENNEDY

The Compliments
of
Peter W. Swan Kennedy
Notary Public
Insurance, Lands, Real Estate

Congratulations on your
50th Anniversary
Inchkeith Garage
John Johnson prop.

W. E. GARDINER
CONGRATULATES YOU BEKEVAR ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH CARS J. I. CASE MACHINERY
KENNEDY

Congratulating you
on your 50th Anniversary
Kennedy Locker Plant
Ed. Margetts Mgr.

Congratulations on your
Anniversary
O. S. Sundstorm
Your Cockshutt dealer
Kennedy Sask.

ÜDVÖZLI BÉKEVÁRT ÖTVENÉVES JUBILEUMA
ALKALMÁVAL
MIKE IMRÓ VÁLLALKOZÓ
INCHKEITH

Congratulations Bekevar
On Your 50th Anniversary
General Blacksmith Welding
W. Edwards prop. Kennedy

Congratulations Bekevar
On Your 50th Anniversary
A. Bortolotto Shoeshop
Kennedy

GRATULÁLOK SZÜLŐ-TELEPEMNEK
ÖTVEN ÉVES JUBILEUMÁN
SZAKÁCS JOSEPH FÜSZERÜZLET TULAJDONOS
BENDER

A PIONEER CO. CONGRATULATES THE PIONEERS
AND PEOPLE OF BEKEVAR ON THEIR 50th ANNIVERSARY
CANADA OLDEST GRAIN COMPANY
U G. G. SECURITIES CO. LTD. INCHKEITH
INSURANCE FARM SUPPLIES
J. E. ROSS Agent

CENTRAL GROCETERIA AND MEAT MARKET
GREETES YOU ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY
BALOG BELA KIPLING
tulajdonos



Gratulálunk Békevár 50 éves
jubileuma alkalmával
Kovách János és fia
garage tulajdonos

Györffy Lajos Kipling
Közkedvelt borbély
üdvözli a magyarságot
ötven éves jubileumán

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
THE BANK OF TORONTO
AND STAFF

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES
ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
B. COOPER
cattle buyer

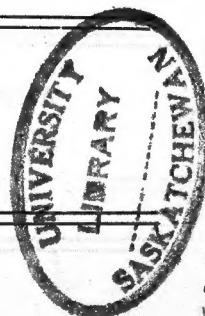
Saskatchewan Pool Elevators
Congratulate You on Your
Anniversary
F. Warick agent

Best Wishes for Your
50th Anniversary
Steve Harris
General Trucking
Kipling

THE KIPLING LOCKER PLANT CONGRATULATES YOU
ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY
George Parrack mgr.

CENTRAL GARAGE CONGRATULATES YOU ON YOUR
ANNIVERSARY
CHAS. GERHARD AND STAFF KIPLING

50th ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS TO
BEKEVAR DISTRICT
L. KRECSY AND SONS KIPLING



Frankt Librar

An incomplete list of the descendants of the pioneers who entered the professions

Cooke Joyce — nurse	Kovach John C. — medical doctor
Bagu William — civil servant	Kovach Dorothy M. A. — teacher
Bagu Grace — Stenographer	Kovach Fred — Banchelor of Science
Balogh Lena — teacher	Kovach Margaret — teacher
Balogh Helen — teacher	Kovach Grace — nurse
Balog Leslie — teacher	Kovach Emily — stenographer
Baloh Magaret — teacher	Krescy Irene — teacher
Beke Margaret — teacher	Krescy Kathelene — stenographer
Beresh Helen B. Ed. — teacher	Nagy Margaret — stenographer
Bodnar Alice — teacher	Santo Edith — Medical doctor
Bodnar Margaret — stenographer	Santo Phyllis — stenographer
Beresh Matilda — stenographer	Santo Eleanor — stenographer
Beres Joseph — civil servant	Szabó Edna — teacher
Doka Kalmán C. B. A. — teacher and clergyman	Sakacs Irene — stenographer
Daku Charles — preacher	Szakacs Victor — civil servant
Izsák Elizabeth — teacher	(Szakacs) Cook Andrew — dental surgeon
Izsak Elmer — lawyer	Szakacs Molly — teacher
Izsak Adele — nursery supervisor	Szakacs Ethel — teacher
Izsak Marienne — stenographer and press reporter	Szakacs Madge — stenographer
Izsak George — Chartered accountant	Szechey Elizabeth — teacher
Izsak Matilda — stenographer	Toth Kathleen — teacher
Izsak Grace — stenographer	Toth Elsie — laboratory technician
Farkas Jolan — teacher	Toth Mike — accountant
Kadash Joseph — civil servant	Toth Eileen — teacher
Kish Lena — stenographer	Toth Elizabeth — stenographer
Kimery Rose — teacher	Toth Grace — stenographer

**There is also a long line of tradesman and private bussinessmen.
Over sixty young men and women served their new Homeland
in two World wars.**

